The Silence at the Town Hall — And the Secret Filing That Explains Everything

His camera was off. His lawyer was gone. And the reason why is worse than anyone imagined.

Joshua Powell +

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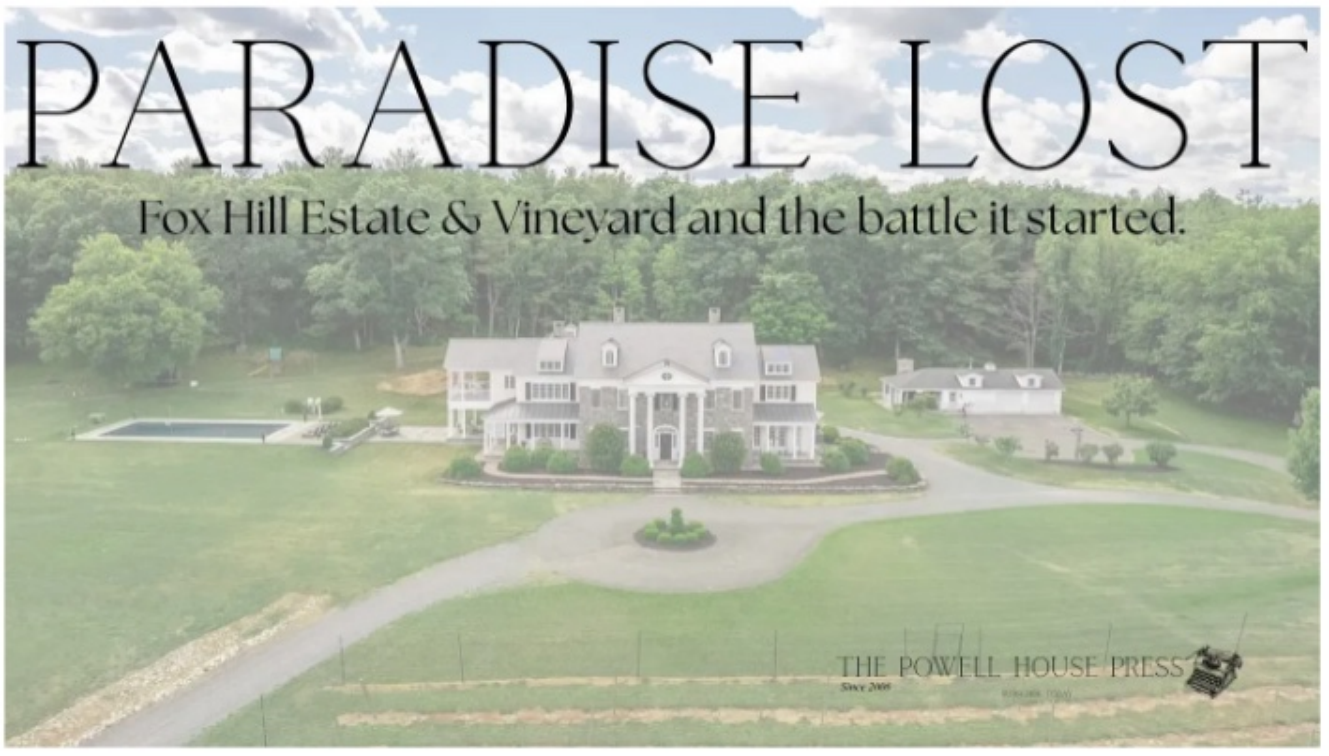

Something was missing at the last Town of Chatham town hall meeting. Or rather, someone. Dr. Edwin Williams' lawyer. He was nowhere to be found. No appearance. No request for an extension. No motion of any kind. Nothing. He was on Vacation.

And Dr. Williams — the facial plastic surgeon whose Fox Hill Estate & Vineyard proposal has consumed five years of community patience — watched remotely, camera off, saying nothing.

And here's the thing: Williams' lawyer knew he would be away on vacation for this scheduled meeting. He knew the date. He could have asked for a continuance. He could have had a colleague from his firm attend. But why bother?

It all seemed... *kind of odd.*

Here is a man who does not take no for an answer. Who has submitted application after application, year after year, despite lacking a single letter of public support. Who brought lawyers, engineers, and consultants to battle his own neighbors over a dirt road and a hobby vineyard. Now suddenly — nothing? No comment. No lawyer.

It was surprising. Well, until it wasn't.

According to a source **and** confirmed by the county, **the Williams had already gone to Columbia County to bypass the Town of Chatham entirely — filing to change their RL-2 zoning to agricultural. *Last October.***

Read that again. They didn't care about the Town's decision. They're assuming they wouldn't need it.

The town meetings? It was all just PR — window dressing. Distraction.

And if they succeed? **The wedding parties are back on.** The scaled-back tasting room, the fifteen-guest cap, the portable restrooms, and disposable cups — all of it was theater. Agricultural zoning opens the door to everything the neighbors have spent five years fighting against. I'll get to these details next week.

This is also why my first article made Williams' according to multiple sources white hot as a poker — not because he was upset about the coverage itself, but because he didn't want attention drawn to what he had already put into motion behind the scenes albeit in plain sight. The county met on January 5th.

And it's all true.

The notice was published online only — in the *Register Star Online* — and only behind a paywall. Is that an issue? Maybe. You can see the notice by clicking here.

Interestingly, the County under Agriculture & Markets Law Section 303-b(3)(b) was required by law to notify the Town of Chatham about this filing.

Did the County notify the Town of Chatham? I bet they did. They sure got back to me right away.

But there is another question that's starting to kindle. W*ho at the town knew?*

I'll answer that next week as well. And that my friends is where the rubber meets the (dirt) road.

Keep reading, folks. Bashford Road just might become the next Main Street in Chatham — *and not in a good way.* I'll explain all the implications of this next week once the Town of Chatham gets back to me.

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